

House Resolution 1347

By: Representatives Smith of the 113th, Keen of the 179th, Burkhalter of the 50th, Jerguson of the 22nd, Lindsey of the 54th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. John Calvin Portman, Jr., and inviting him to be
2 recognized by the House of Representatives; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. John Calvin Portman, Jr., has long been recognized for his commitment to
4 the urban environment as an architect, developer, business entrepreneur, and civic leader; and

5 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty in the United States
6 Navy during World War II; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Portman earned a bachelor's degree in
8 architecture from the Georgia Institute of Technology and opened an Atlanta architectural
9 firm, John Portman and Associates, in 1953; and

10 WHEREAS, over the last six decades, his firm has grown from a two-man office to the
11 Portman Family of Companies, a global organization based in Atlanta that includes Portman
12 Holdings, a real estate development company, and AmericasMart, a home decor wholesaler;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, at a time when most builders and developers were fleeing America's inner
15 cities, Mr. Portman drove his architectural stake solidly into the ground and into the urban
16 streets of Atlanta by designing numerous buildings that carved stylish urban spaces from a
17 decaying downtown and guided the rejuvenation of Atlanta's center into a vibrant world
18 capital; and

19 WHEREAS, his Peachtree Center Office Building in Atlanta established a model for
20 multipurpose complexes globally, and his famous Hyatt Regency Hotel, with its 22-story
21 lobby of 120 feet on each side, served as the prototype for countless atrium hotels; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Portman's Peachtree Center Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel extended a
23 73-story glass cylinder of 1,100 guest rooms from the core of a raw concrete base; his
24 Atlanta Marriott Marquis features a 50-story lobby and 1,675 guest rooms on splayed floors
25 that dramatically overhang a grandiose atrium; and in 2000 he saw the opening of SunTrust
26 Plaza Garden Offices; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Portman has taken an active role throughout his career in civic leadership,
28 guiding the city's first comprehensive study of downtown as president of Central Atlanta
29 Progress, championing the construction of the city's rapid rail system in the 1970's, and
30 initiating the idea of the Georgia World Congress Center to help foster Atlanta's growing
31 convention industry; and

32 WHEREAS, committed to his alma mater and architectural education, Mr. Portman
33 diligently and conscientiously served on the Georgia Tech Advisory Board and the Georgia
34 Tech College of Architecture Alumni Board; and

35 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments of this
36 remarkable and distinguished Georgian be appropriately recognized.

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
38 the members of this body commend Mr. John Calvin Portman, Jr., for championing the
39 advancement of Atlanta and Georgia through his remarkable civic service and design
40 excellence and invite him to be recognized by the House of Representatives at a date and
41 time to be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
43 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. John Calvin Portman,
44 Jr.